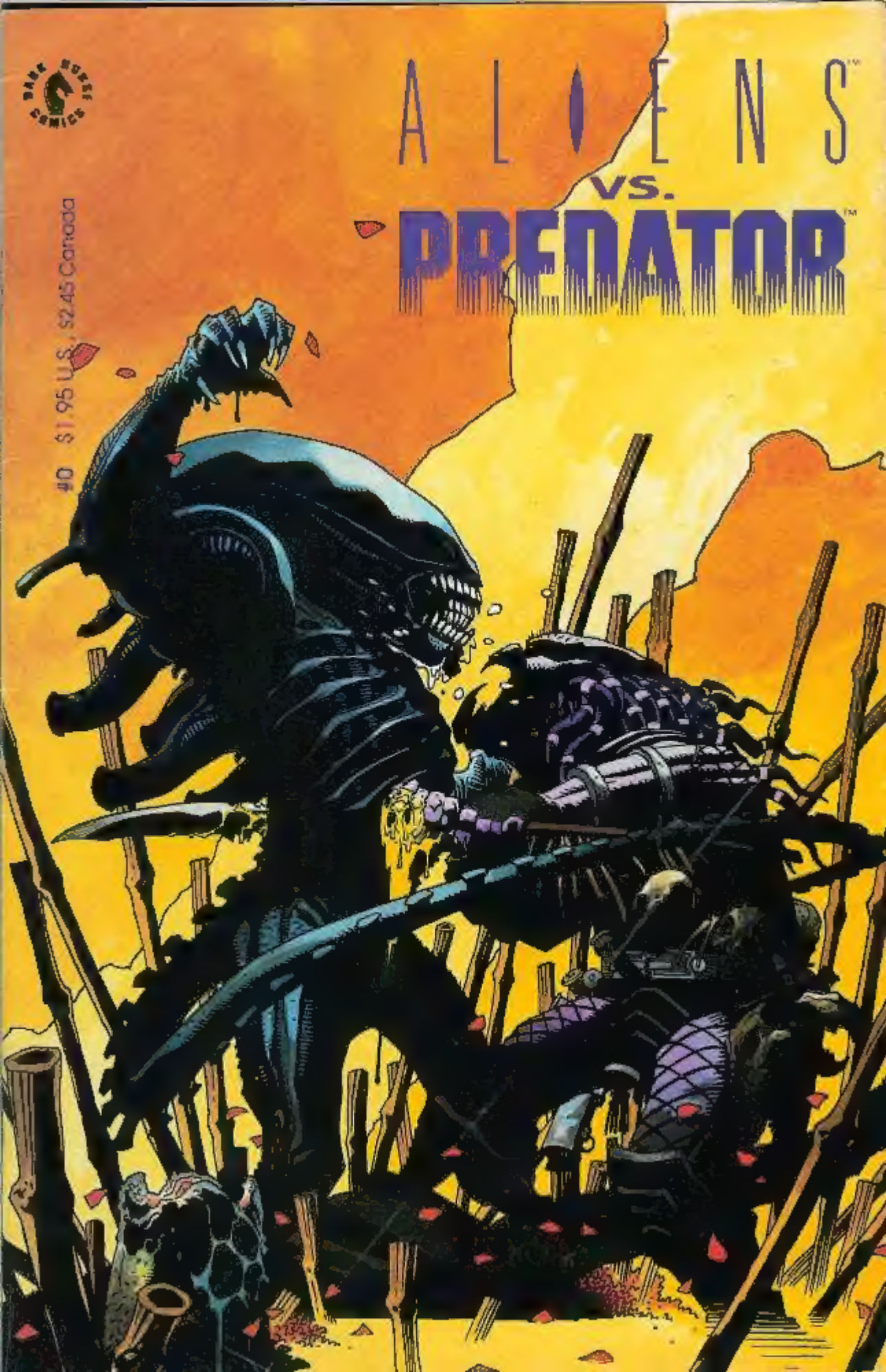
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ALIENS™
VS.
PREDATOR™
#0 $1.95 U.S., $2.45 Canada

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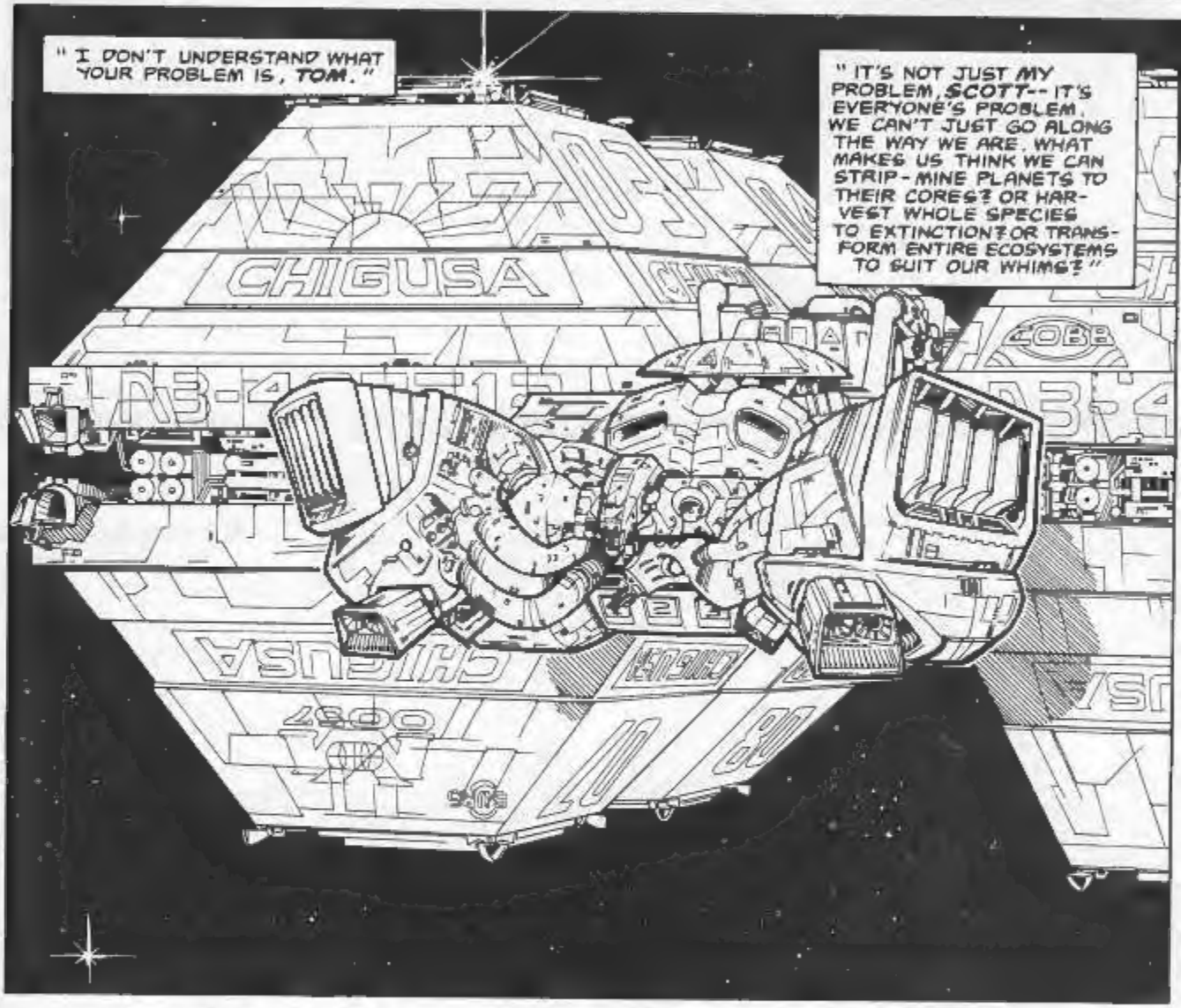
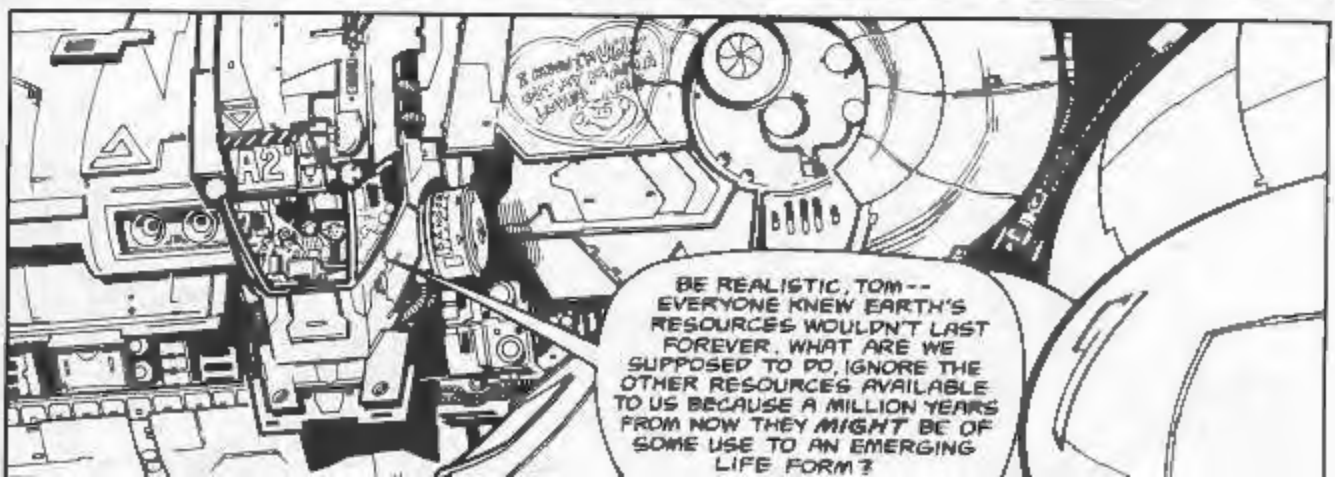
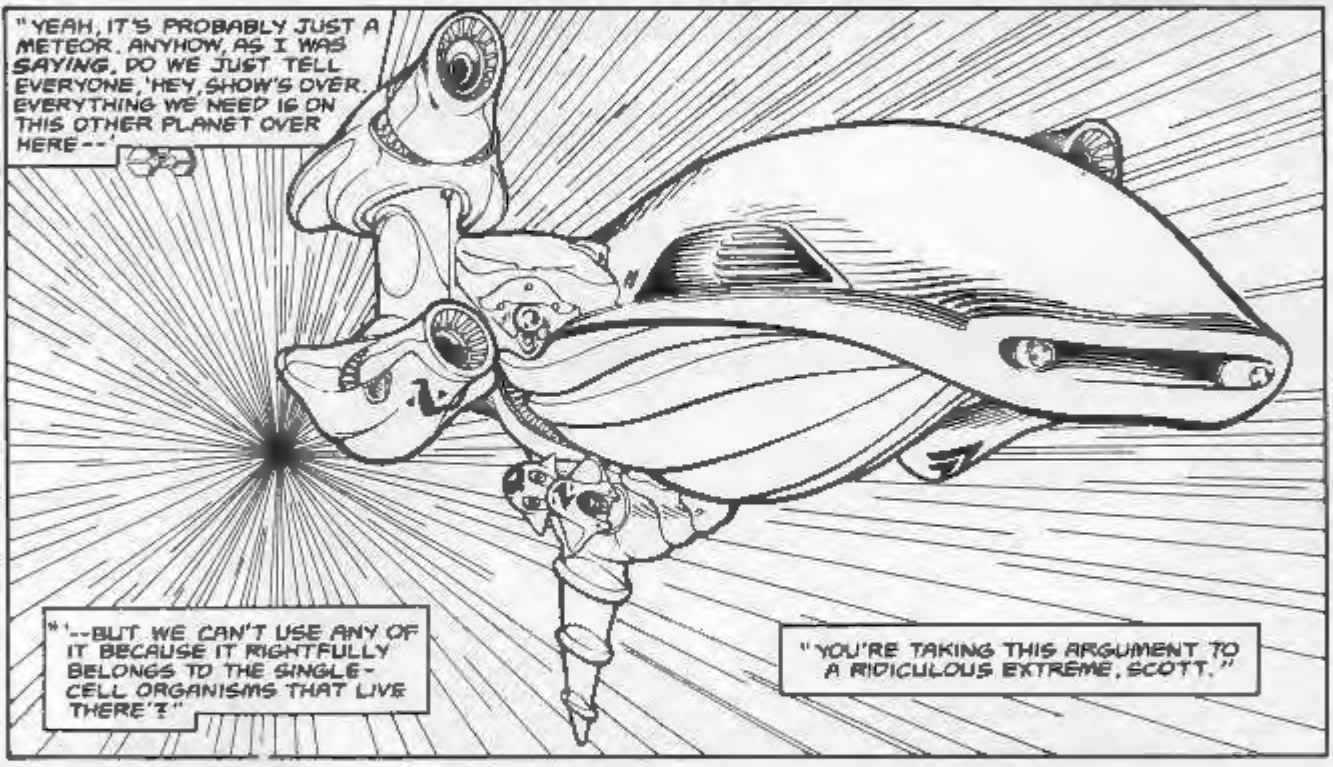

" I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS, TOM."
" IT'S NOT JUST MY PROBLEM, SCOTT-- IT'S EVERYONE'S PROBLEM. WE CAN'T JUST GO ALONG THE WAY WE ARE. WHAT MAKES US THINK WE CAN STRIP-MINE PLANETS TO THEIR CORES? OR HARVEST WHOLE SPECIES TO EXTINCTION? OR TRANSFORM ENTIRE ECOSYSTEMS TO SUIT OUR WHIMS?"
CHIGUSA
COBB

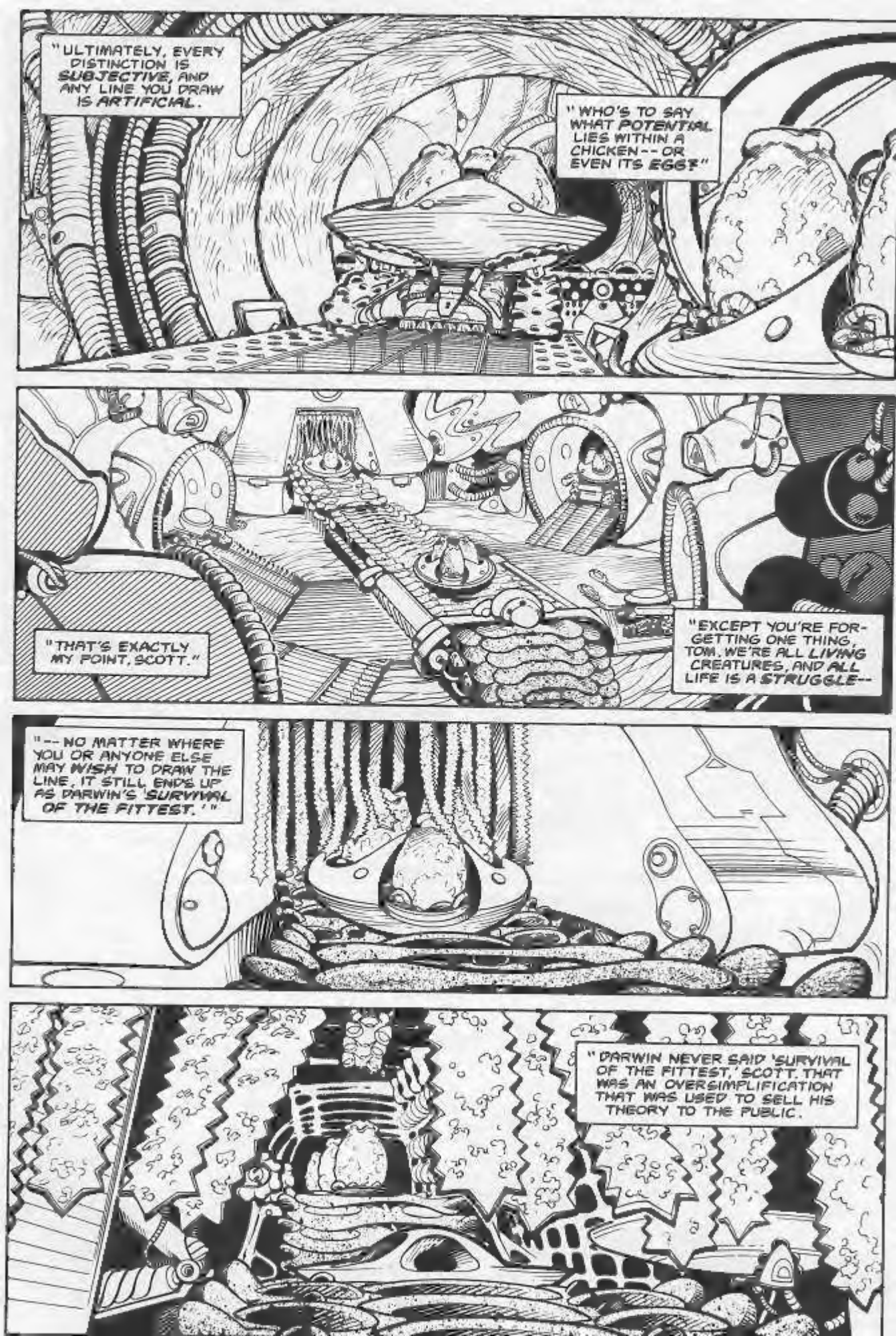

BE REALISTIC, TOM-- EVERYONE KNEW EARTH'S RESOURCES WOULDN'T LAST FOREVER. WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO, IGNORE THE OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO US BECAUSE A MILLION YEARS FROM NOW THEY MIGHT BE OF SOME USE TO AN EMERGING LIFE FORM?

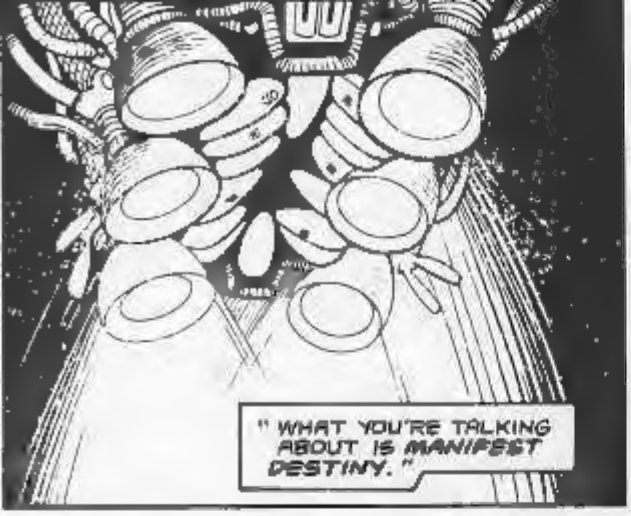
WHOA--!
THAT WAS CLOSE!

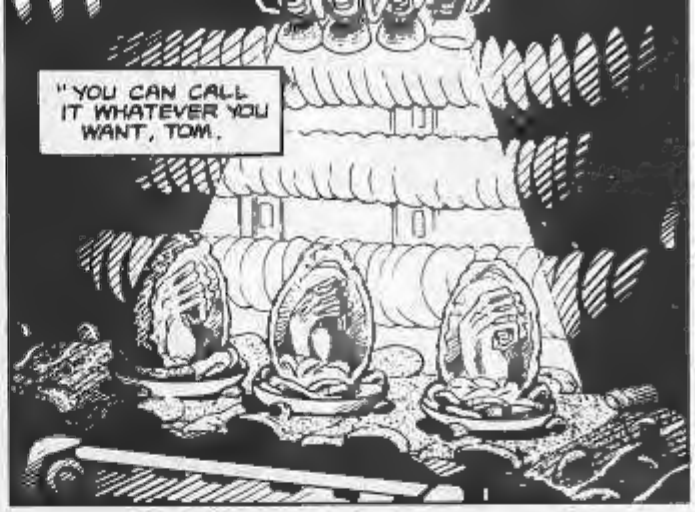
"WE'RE REGISTERING A POWER SURGE! WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT THING?"
"THE SCANNERS SAY IT'S MOSTLY METALLIC--BUT WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S MOVING WAY TOO FAST TO BE ANYTHING MANMADE."

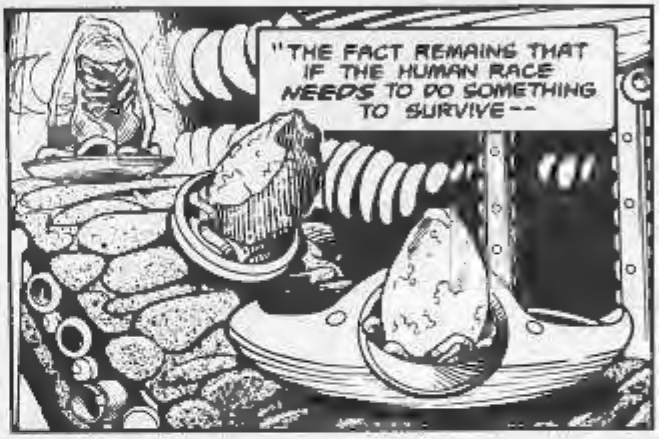

"YEAH, IT'S PROBABLY JUST A METEOR. ANYHOW, AS I WAS SAYING, DO WE JUST TELL EVERYONE, 'HEY, SHOW'S OVER. EVERYTHING WE NEED IS ON THIS OTHER PLANET OVER HERE--'
"--BUT WE CAN'T USE ANY OF IT BECAUSE IT RIGHTFULLY BELONGS TO THE SINGLE-CELL ORGANISMS THAT LIVE THERE'?"
"YOU'RE TAKING THIS ARGUMENT TO A RIDICULOUS EXTREME, SCOTT."

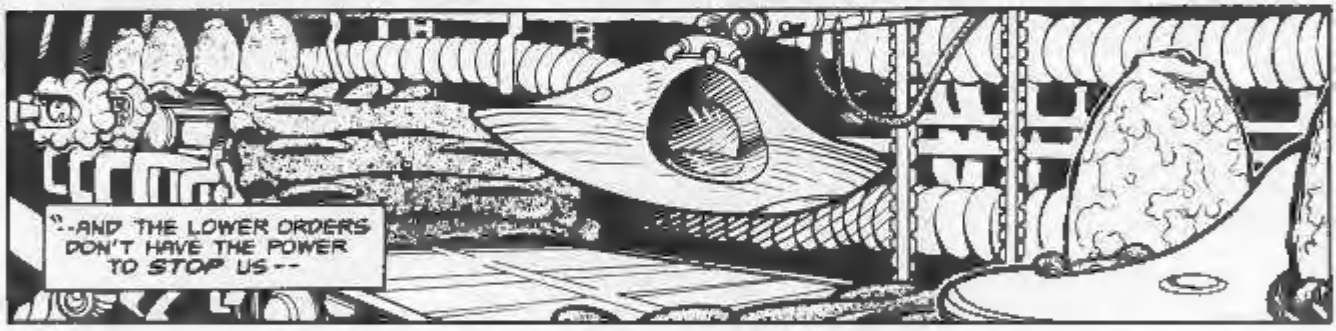
"NO, I'M NOT. I'M JUST POINTING OUT HOW IRRATIONAL IT IS TO COMPARTMENTALIZE YOUR ETHICS, TOM.
"IT'S WRONG TO HARVEST DOLPHINS BECAUSE THEY'RE INTELLIGENT CREATURES--BUT IT'S OKAY TO EAT CHICKENS BECAUSE THEY ONLY HAVE A BRAIN THE SIZE OF A PEA?"


"ULTIMATELY, EVERY DISTINCTION IS SUBJECTIVE, AND ANY LINE YOU DRAW IS ARTIFICIAL.
"WHO'S TO SAY WHAT POTENTIAL LIES WITHIN A CHICKEN -- OR EVEN ITS EGG?"
"THAT'S EXACTLY MY POINT, SCOTT."
"EXCEPT YOU'RE FORGETTING ONE THING, TOM. WE'RE ALL LIVING CREATURES, AND ALL LIFE IS A STRUGGLE--
"-- NO MATTER WHERE YOU OR ANYONE ELSE MAY WISH TO DRAW THE LINE, IT STILL ENDS UP AS DARWIN'S 'SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST.'"
"DARWIN NEVER SAID 'SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST,' SCOTT. THAT WAS AN OVERSIMPLIFICATION THAT WAS USED TO SELL HIS THEORY TO THE PUBLIC.

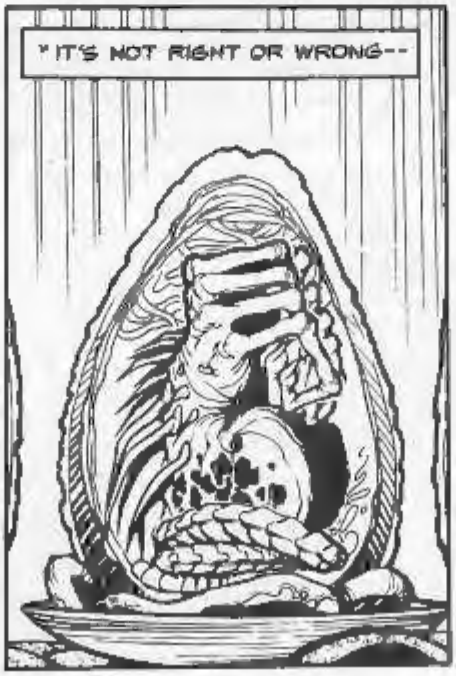

"WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT IS MANIFEST DESTINY."


"YOU CAN CALL IT WHATEVER YOU WANT, TOM.


"THE FACT REMAINS THAT IF THE HUMAN RACE NEEDS TO DO SOMETHING TO SURVIVE--


"-AND THE LOWER ORDERS DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO STOP US--

"--WE'LL PREVAIL.


"IT'S NOT RIGHT OR WRONG--

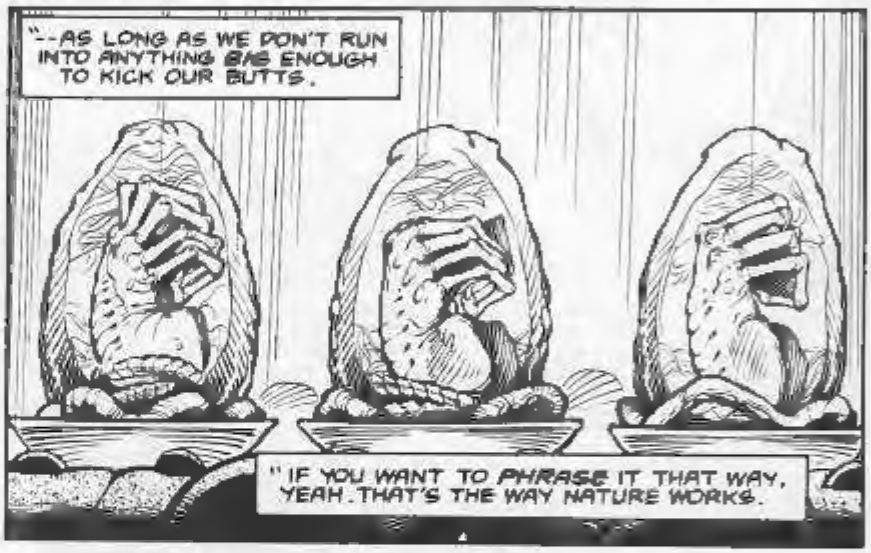
"--IT'S JUST THE WAY THINGS ARE.

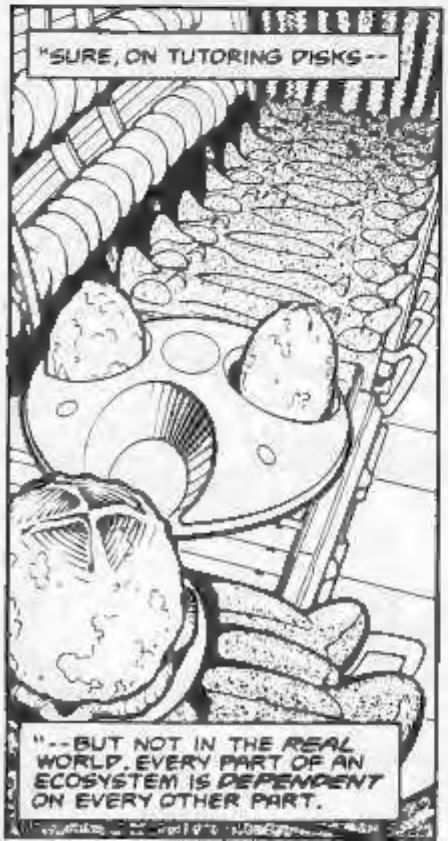
"YOU'VE GOT TO STOP PROJECTING HUMAN MOTIVES AND EMOTIONS ONTO OTHER ORGANISMS.
"EVERYTHING IS MERELY WHAT IT IS.
"A MONGOOSE THAT TRIES TO STEAL A COBRA'S EGG ISN'T EVIL--IT'S JUST TRYING TO SURVIVE.
"BUT THE COBRA IS TRYING TO SURVIVE, TOO. AND IF IT CATCHES THE MONGOOSE IN ITS NEST, THERE'S GOING TO BE A FIGHT.
"FORTUNATELY FOR THE MONGOOSE, IT HAS FASTER REFLEXES AND A MORE EFFICIENT METABOLISM.
"WHETHER THAT'S 'FAIR' OR NOT ISN'T EVEN PART OF THE EQUATION-- IT'S SIMPLY THE WAY THINGS ARE."

"YEAH? TRY TELLING THAT TO THE COBRA.

"BUT FOR THE SAKE OF ARGUMENT, WE'LL IGNORE THE QUESTION OF ETHICS. STILL, ALL YOU'RE SAYING, SCOTT, IS THAT IT'S ALL RIGHT TO DO WHATEVER WE WANT--

"--TO EXPLOIT ANY ECOSYSTEM, ANY SPECIES--


"--AS LONG AS WE DON'T RUN INTO ANYTHING BIG ENOUGH TO KICK OUR BUTTS.
"IF YOU WANT TO PHRASE IT THAT WAY, YEAH. THAT'S THE WAY NATURE WORKS.

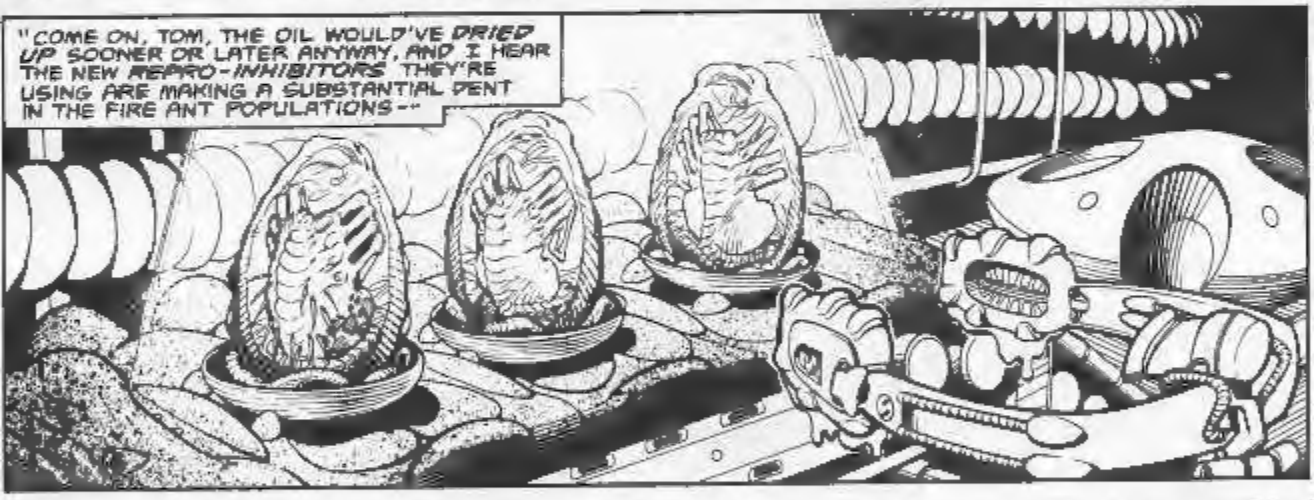

"SURE, ON TUTORING DISKS--
"--BUT NOT IN THE REAL WORLD. EVERY PART OF AN ECOSYSTEM IS DEPENDENT ON EVERY OTHER PART.

"IT'S THAT INTERDEPENDENCY THAT MAKES INTERFERING WITH EXISTING SYSTEMS SO CHANCY.
"EVEN THE SMALLEST COMPONENTS ARE VITALLY IMPORTANT.

"WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED THAT MILLIONS OF 'KILLER BEES' COULD SPRING FROM A *HANDFUL* OF ESCAPED AFRICAN BEES?

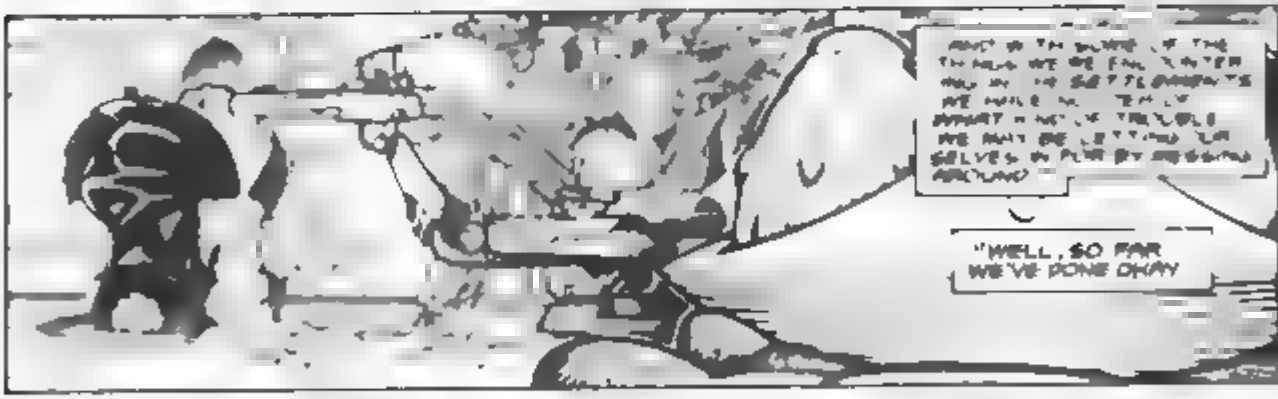
"OR THAT A FEW BRAZILIAN FIRE ANTS COULD MAKE THE SOUTHEASTERN PORTION OF THE U.S. VIRTUALLY *UNINHABITABLE* IN JUST OVER SEVENTY YEARS?

"AND WHAT ABOUT THE 'OIL-EATING' *BACTERIUM* THE GENE-SPLICERS AT THE PETROLEUM COMPANIES DEVELOPED TO CLEAN UP THEIR SPILLS?
"REMEMBER HOW THEY THOUGHT THEY HAD IT *COMPLETELY* IN THEIR CONTROL?"


"COME ON, TOM, THE OIL WOULD'VE *DRIED UP* SOONER OR LATER ANYWAY, AND I HEAR THE NEW *REPRO-INHIBITORS* THEY'RE USING ARE MAKING A SUBSTANTIAL DENT IN THE FIRE ANT POPULATIONS--"

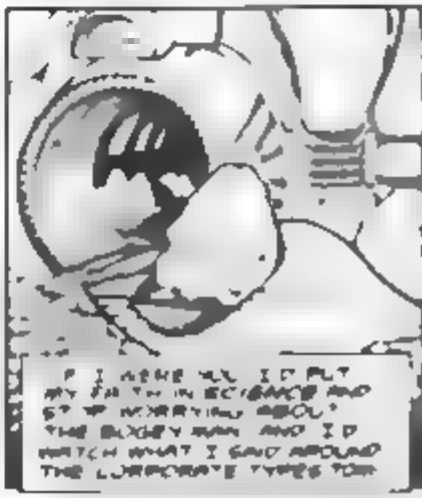
"--SURE, WE SUFFER SETBACKS, BUT WE'LL *ALWAYS* FIND WAYS *AROUND* THE PROBLEMS THAT NATURE THROWS AT US."

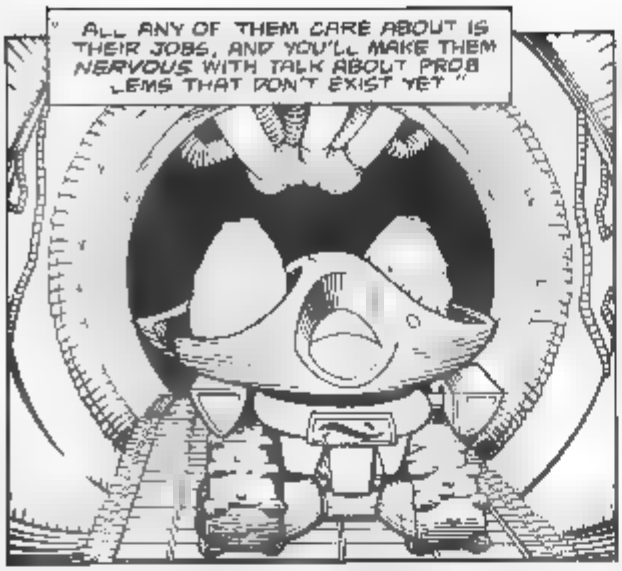
WILL WE
"THE TIGHTER THE GRIP WE TRY TO GET ON NATURE, THE MORE NATURE PUSHES THROUGH THE CRACKS IN OUR TECHNOLOGY

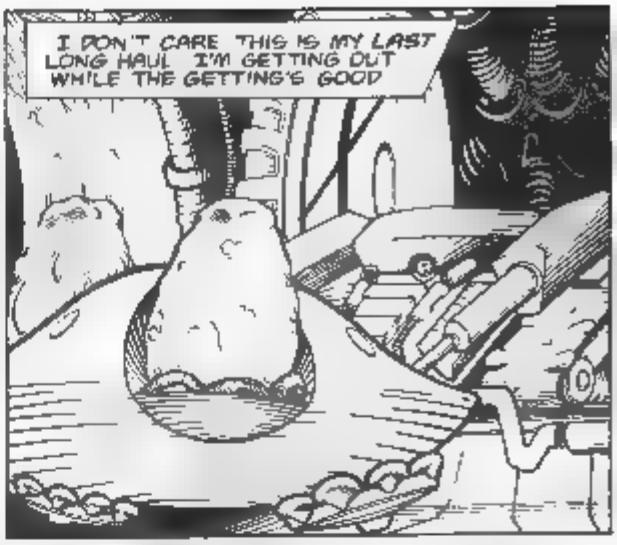

"WELL, SO FAR WE'VE DONE OKAY

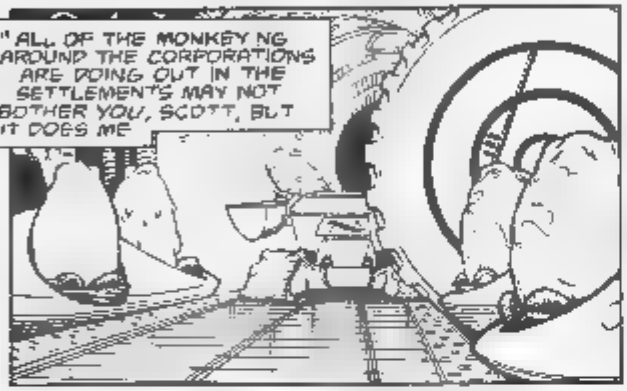
IN ALL OF THE LIFE

AND I HEAR THEY'VE
A VACCINE FOR
THOSE NOW

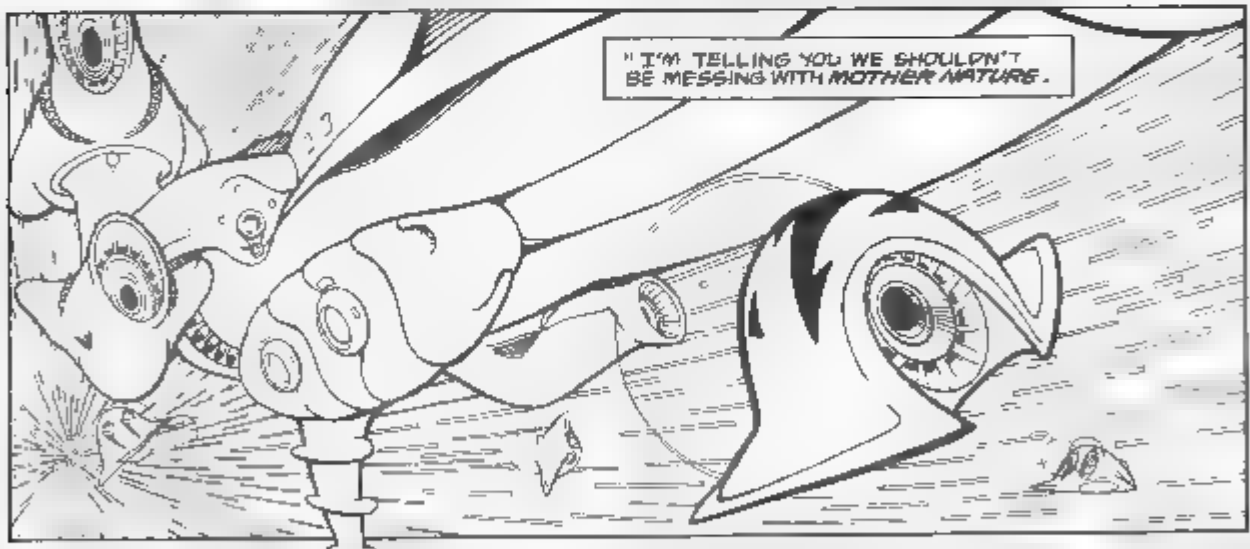

I'D PUT
MY FAITH IN SCIENCE AND
STOP WORRYING ABOUT
THE BOGEY MAN AND I'D
WATCH WHAT I SAID AROUND
THE CORPORATE TYPES TOO


" ALL ANY OF THEM CARE ABOUT IS THEIR JOBS, AND YOU'LL MAKE THEM NERVOUS WITH TALK ABOUT PROB LEMS THAT DON'T EXIST YET "

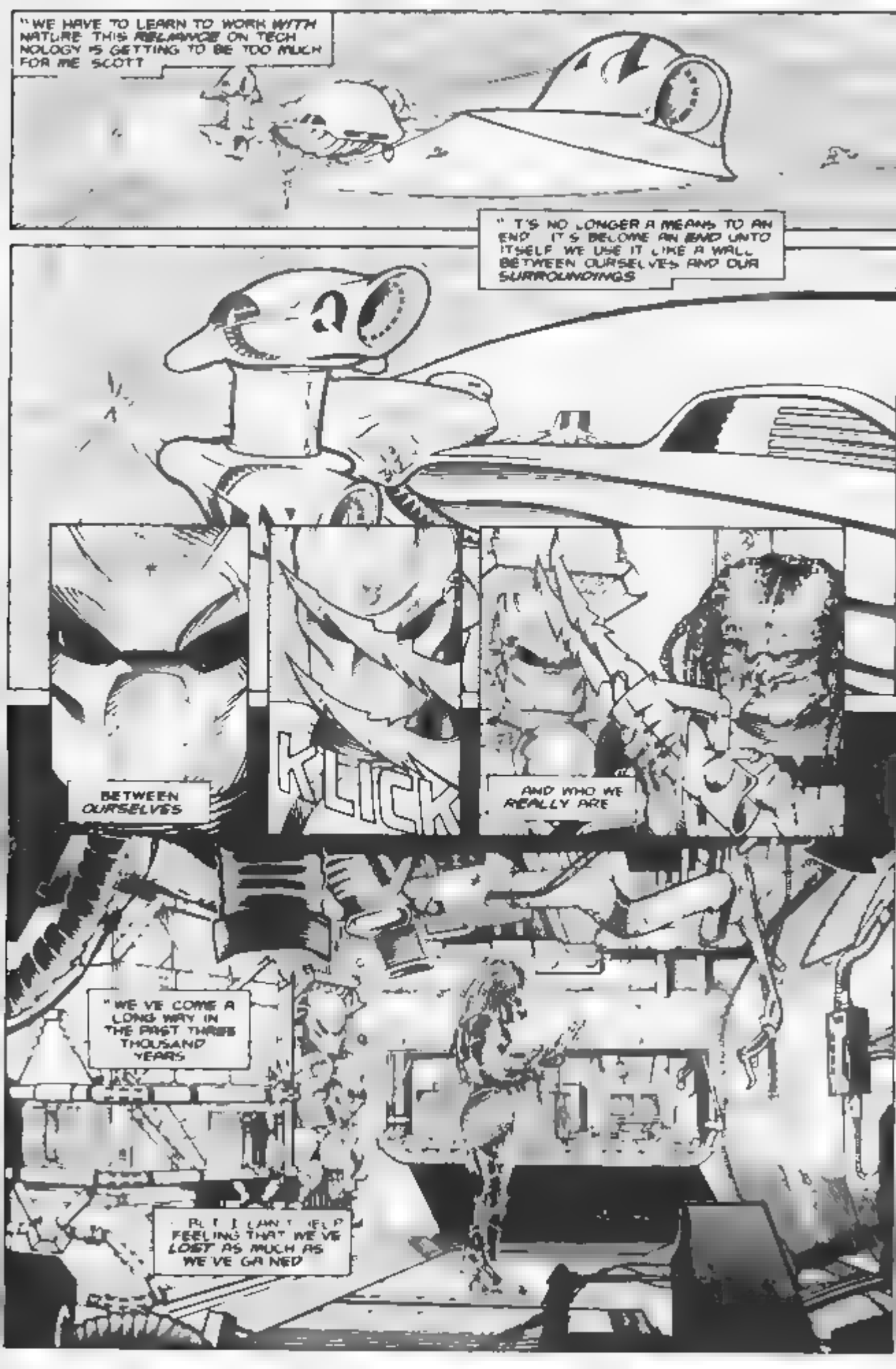

I DON'T CARE THIS IS MY LAST LONG HAUL I'M GETTING OUT WHILE THE GETTING'S GOOD


" ALL OF THE MONKEY NG AROUND THE CORPORATIONS ARE DOING OUT IN THE SETTLEMENTS MAY NOT BOTHER YOU, SCOTT, BUT IT DOES ME

' WE'VE HAD A LONG RUN OF GOOD FORTUNE LONGER THAN WE'VE DESERVED THERE'S A MAJOR LEAGUE TURD COMING DOWN THE PIKE MARK MY WORDS -
"- AND I DON'T WANT TO BE AROUND WHEN IT HITS THE FAN


" I'M TELLING YOU WE SHOULDN'T BE MESSING WITH MOTHER NATURE .

HE S A REA BITCH


"WE HAVE TO LEARN TO WORK WITH NATURE THIS RELIANCE ON TECHNOLOGY IS GETTING TO BE TOO MUCH FOR ME SCOTT
"IT'S NO LONGER A MEANS TO AN END. IT'S BECOME AN END UNTO ITSELF. WE USE IT LIKE A WALL BETWEEN OURSELVES AND OUR SURROUNDINGS
BETWEEN OURSELVES
KLICK
AND WHO WE REALLY ARE
"WE'VE COME A LONG WAY IN THE PAST THREE THOUSAND YEARS
BUT I CAN'T HELP FEELING THAT WE'VE LOST AS MUCH AS WE'VE GAINED

THESE DAYS WE'RE SO INSULATED THAT WE MAKE HEROES OUT OF ANYONE WHO
"BUT IT WASN'T
HO SEND OUT THE LITTLE
YS TO DO THEIR DIRTY WOR-
"IT USED TO BE THAT A MAN'S

AND AGE
H OF CORPORATE
FOR THE RIGHT
HEY, EVERY CULTURE OBSERVES ITS
STATUS. LOOK AT THE INFIGHTING
AND BACK-STABBING THAT GOES ON
AT EVERY LEVEL OF OUR

ONLY DIFFERENCE
IS OUR METHODS
WHEN THE WRONG
BALANCES IN EVERY
SYSTEM, SCOTT

YEAH, BUT YOUR WAY LEAVES THEM ALL UP TO INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE!
RRRR
RCAR

"AT LEAST IF I BUST A GUY IN THE CHOPS, HE CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS THAT I DON'T LIKE WHAT HE'S DOING"

IN THE SAME SITUATION HUMANS WOULD JUST KILL EACH OTHER. WE'VE OUTGROWN THE INSTINCT FOR SPECIES PRESERVATION THAT PREVENTS THAT IN THE LOWER ORDERS.
BUT WE HAVEN'T TRULY GROWN INTO THE MORALITY THAT YOU'RE SO FOND OF LITING TOW
THE SOCIETY WE'VE BUILT ISN'T PERFECT, GRANTED BUT IT WORKS -- PROBABLY MORE BECAUSE OF
WHY WOULD WE WANT TO TRADE THE R BEYRING EARTHWIDE JUR FOR YOURS -- A JOB WHOE POW IBLE BY TECHNOLOGY?
BUT IF YOU WANT TO GET BACK TO NATURE THERE ARE WAYS TO DO

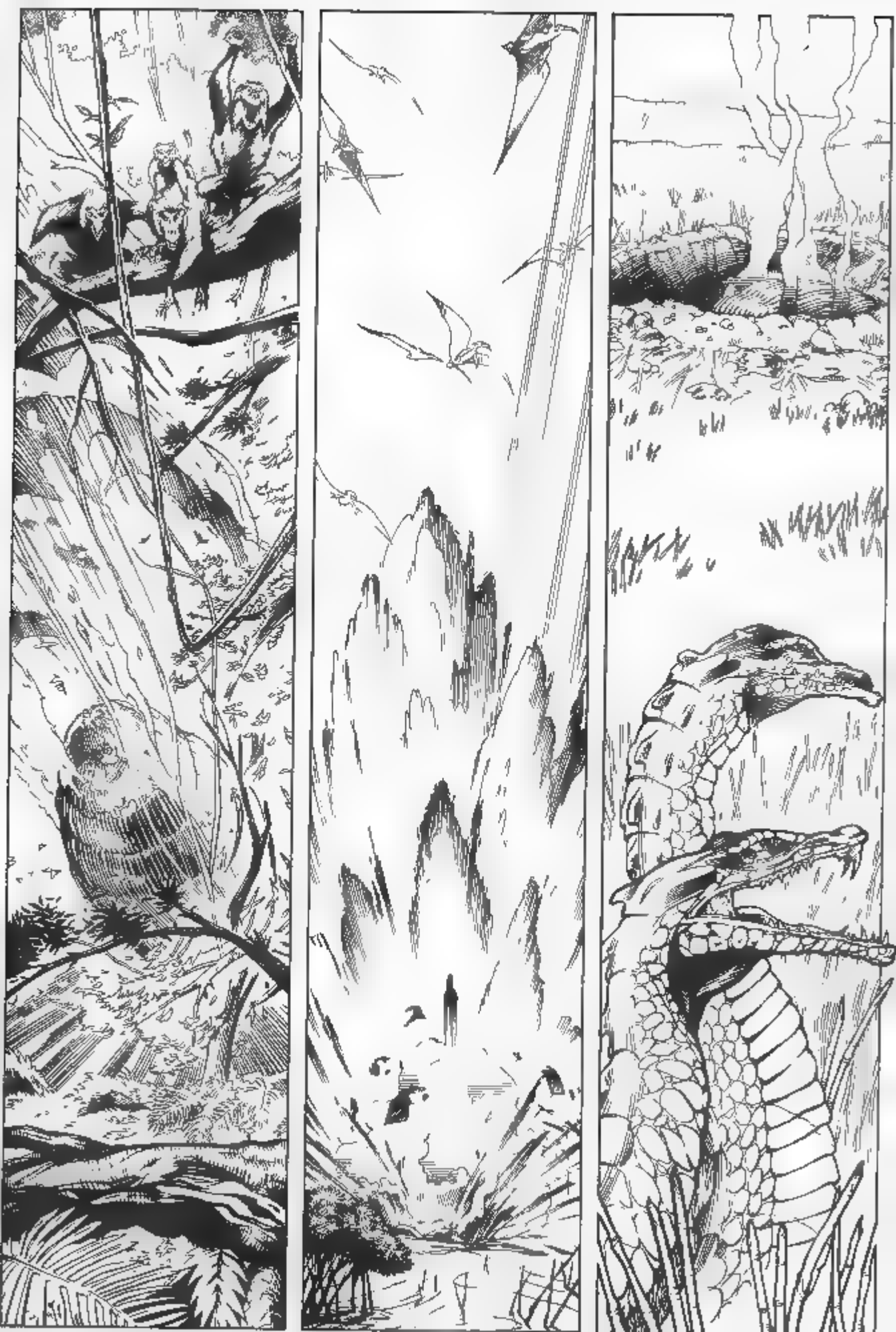
"--GO ON ONE OF THOSE WILDERNESS SAFARIS TO ALPHA. I UNDERSTAND THE GENE SPLICERS NOW HAVE SOME THING THAT ALMOST LOOKS LIKE AN ELEPHANT

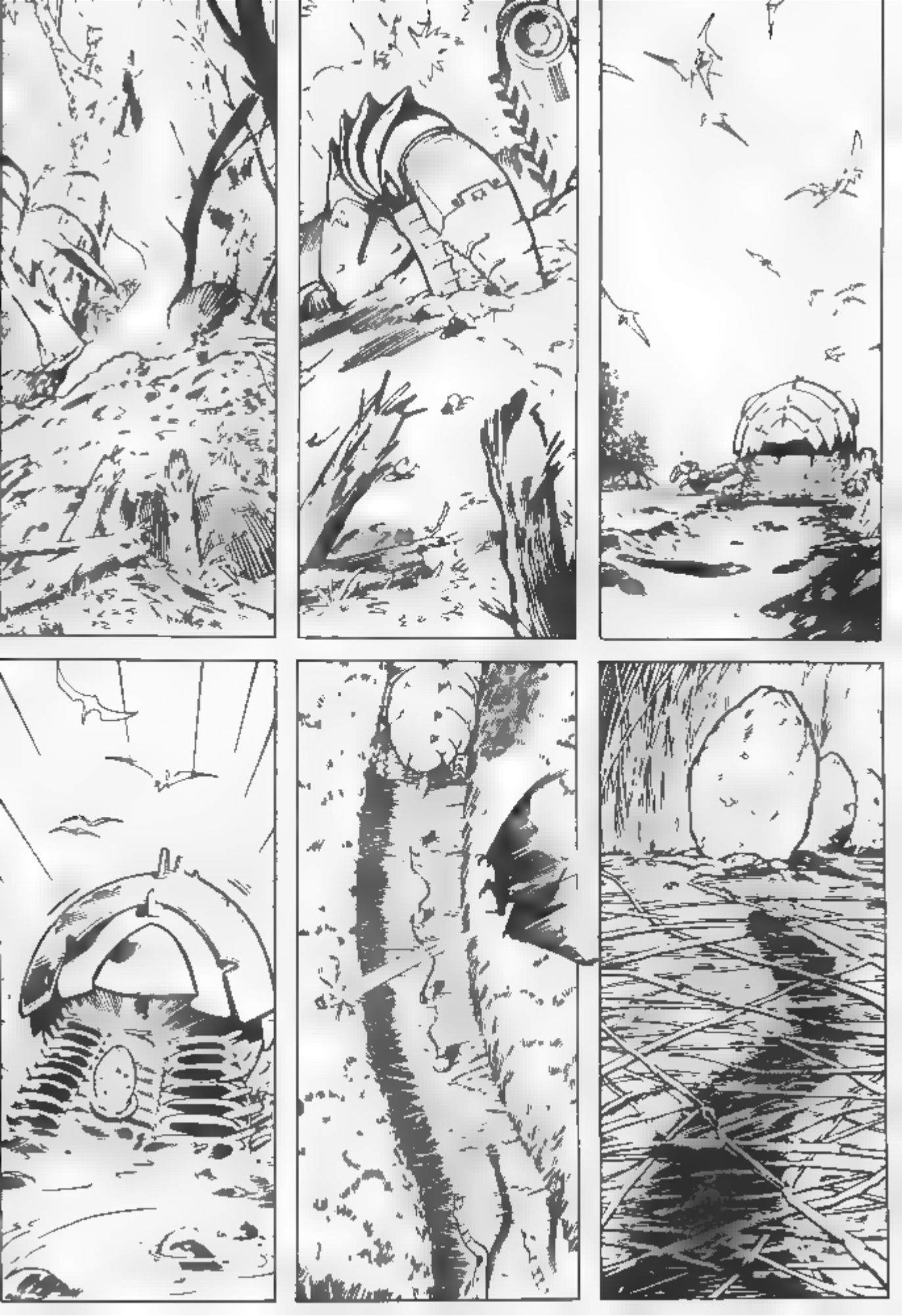
"OR IF YOU WANT REAL ADVENTURE SIGN ON FOR A HITCH AS A RANCH HAND AT OUR NEXT STOP. PLENTY OF FRESH AIR HARD WORK AND NOT MUCH ELSE

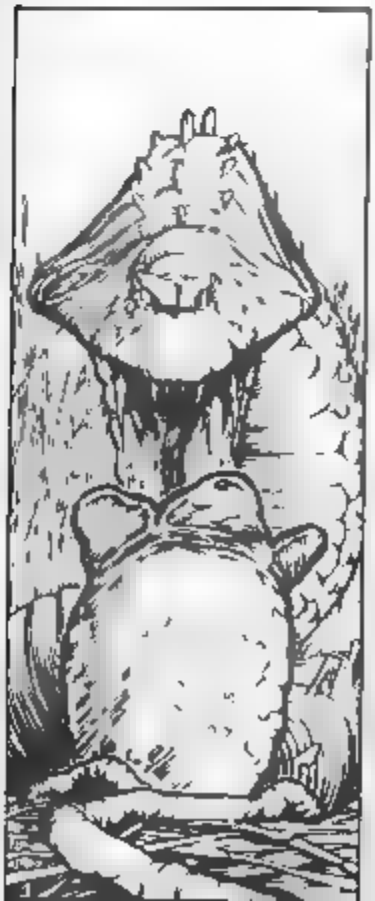
"MAYBE THAT'S YOUR IDEA OF FULFILLMENT--

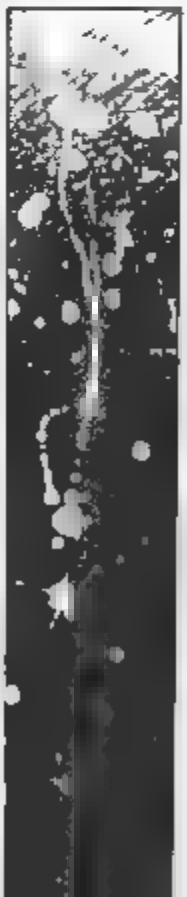
"THOUGH I CAN'T IMAGINE ANYONE ENVYING YOU THE JOB

"ME, I CAN GET ENOUGH ADVENTURE FROM THE VIDS. GOD BLESS MODERN TECHNOLOGY!

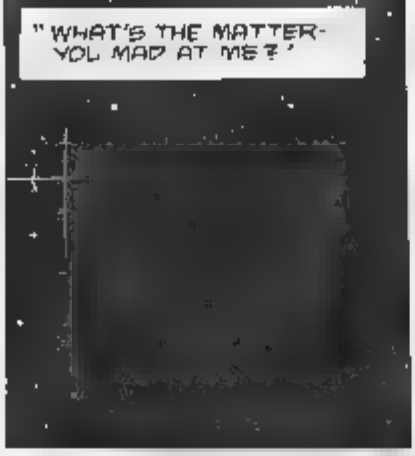




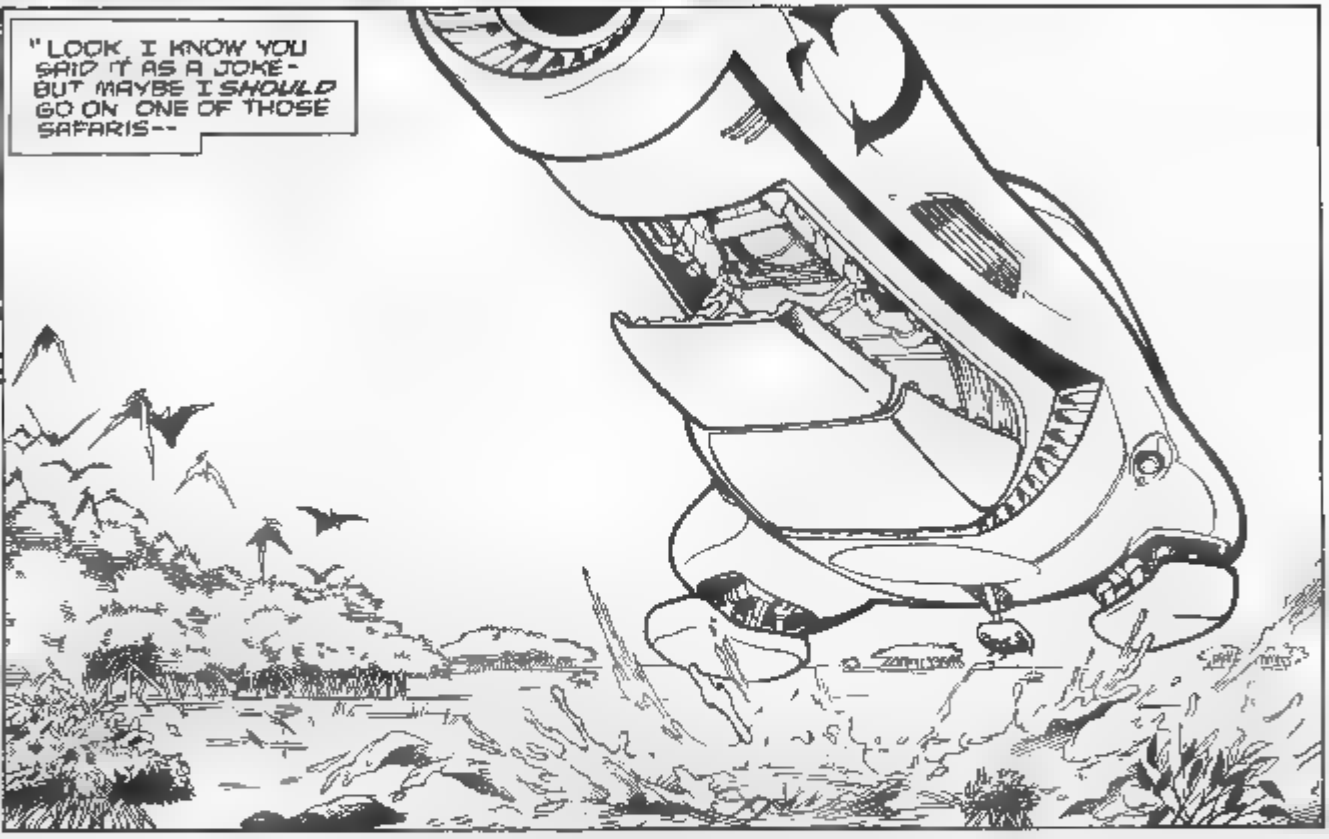




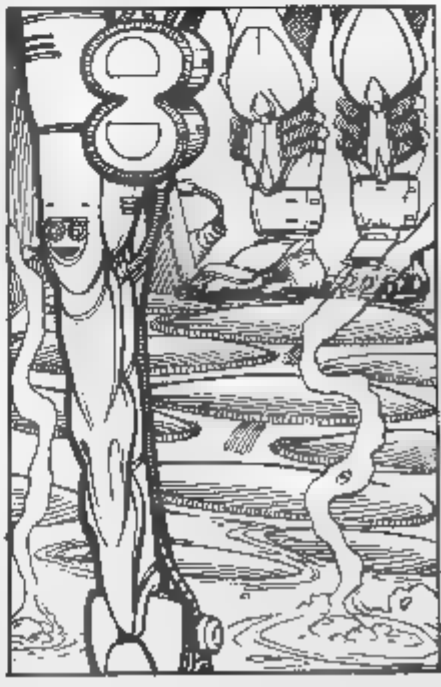
"YOU'RE BEING AWFULLY QUIET TOM


"WHAT'S THE MATTER- YOU MAD AT ME?'

"HUH? UH, NO, SCOTT I WAS JUST THINKING.


"LOOK, I KNOW YOU SAID IT AS A JOKE- BUT MAYBE I SHOULD GO ON ONE OF THOSE SAFARIS--

"--OR SIGN ON AS A RANCH HAND.



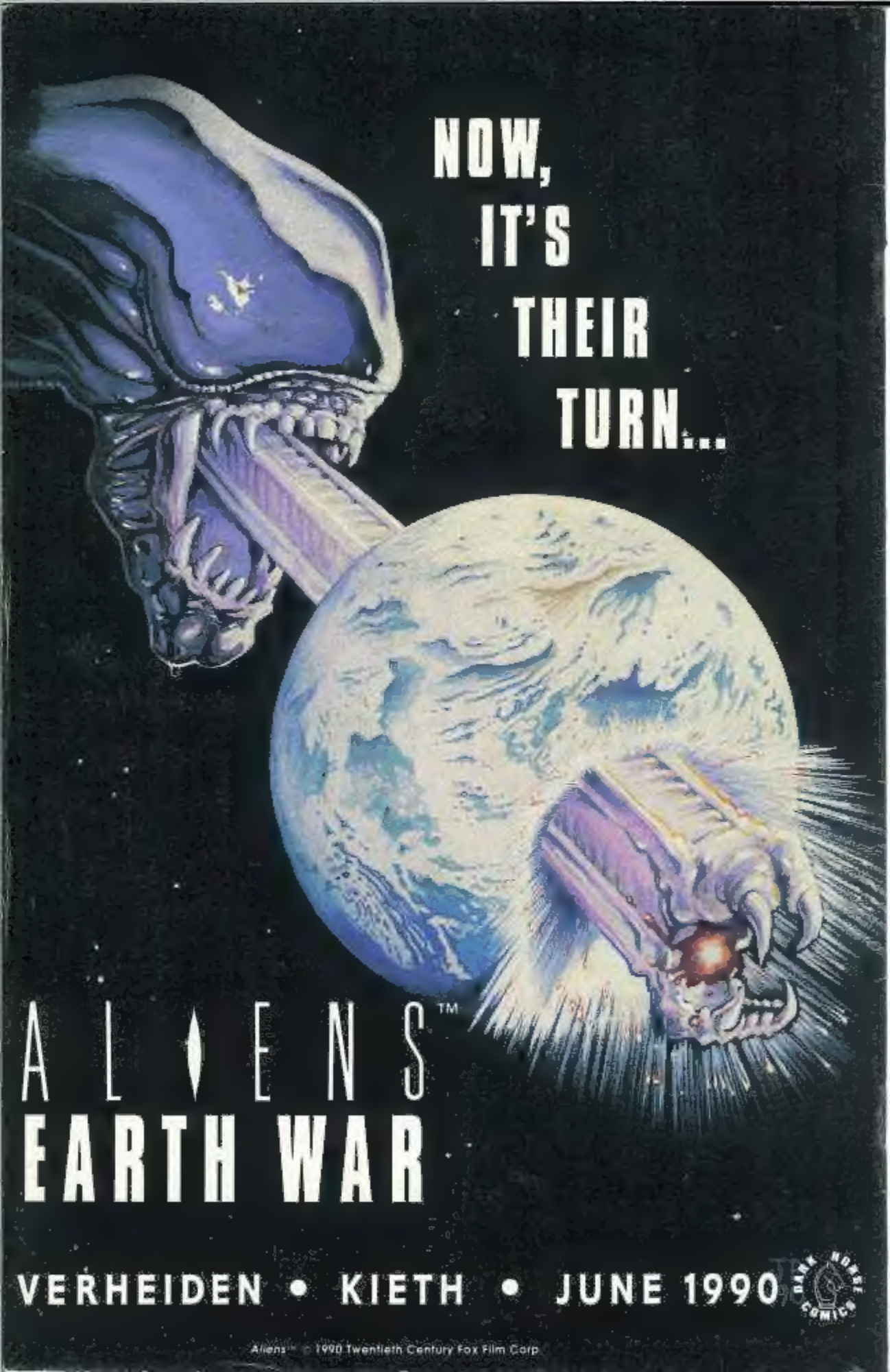
A CHANGE OF SCENERY MIGHT BE JUST WHAT I NEED

"I GUESS I COULD UNDERSTAND THE POTENTIAL FOR EXCITEMENT IN THE HUNT, BUT FOR ME THE THRILL WAS MISSING
"THE CONTEST SEEMED SO LOPSIDED. I WONDERED WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO HUNT SOMETHING THAT WAS CAPABLE OF HUNTING ME
THE DANGER

"--TO RISK EVERYTHING ON YOUR OWN SKILL AND STRENGTH...
"...THAT'S GOT TO BE THE ULTIMATE THRILL!
"I MEAN, LOOK AT WHAT WE DO FOR A LIVING-- ACCESS THE COMPUTER, PUNCH A FEW BUTTONS-- ALL THE WORK IS DONE FOR US. ANYBODY COULD DO THIS JOB, WITH THE RIGHT TRAINING.
"I WANT TO DO SOMETHING THAT'LL GET MY HEART POUNDING.

"I GUESS THAT'S WHAT I MEANT BY MY ANTI-TECHNOLOGY TIRADE. IT'S NOT THAT TECHNOLOGY IS EVIL IN AND OF ITSELF--
"--BUT ONCE IN A WHILE WE HAVE TO PUT IT ASIDE AND DO SOMETHING TO REMIND OURSELVES THAT WE'RE ALIVE--
"--PROVE THAT WE CAN ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING BY RELYING SOLELY ON OURSELVES.
SNAP
"I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK AN EXPERIENCE LIKE THAT WOULD CHANGE A PERSON--
"--MAYBE NOT IN A WAY THAT OTHER PEOPLE WOULD NOTICE--
"--BUT IT WOULD BE SOMETHING YOU'D CARRY WITH YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE."
FHISSSH
"I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, TOM. KINDA LIKE THE FIRST TIME YOU GET LAID, RIGHT? DID I EVER TELL YOU ABOUT THAT? I WAS AT THIS PARTY, SEE, AND--"
"OH, BROTHER..."

Mike Mignola's original cover for this issue — which he rejected!


NOW,
IT'S
THEIR
TURN...
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